JR0062

Jake Runestad

PLEASE STAY

SATB choir (divisi) & piano

JR Music
jakerunestad.com

Text

No! Don't go!

Don't let your worst day be your last.
The storm is strong, but it will pass.
You think you can't go on another day,
but please stay. Just stay.

Hope is real. Help is real.
You are breath, you are life,
you are beauty, you are light.

Your story is not over.
You are not a burden to anyone.

Please stay. Just stay.

[Text adapted from tweets using #IKeptLiving — expressions of hope from those who battle depression and chose to live.]

Share

Read the story behind this work and share your #ReasonsToStay:

jakerunestad.com/store/please-stay

Performance Time c. 6:30

About the Work

Commissioned by the Ohio Choral Directors Association College & University Commissioning Consortium.

North Carolina State University (Daniel Monek, consortium coordinator)
Ashland University (Ron Blackley)
Bowling Green State University (Mark Munson, Tim Cloeter)
Capital University (Lynda Hassler)
Cleveland State University (Brian Bailey)
College of Wooster (Lisa Wong)
Denison University (Wei Cheng)
Hiram University (Dawn Sonntag)
Kent State University (Scott MacPherson)
Malone University (Jon Peterson)
Marietta College (Jay Dougherty)
Miami University (Bill Bausano, Jeremy Jones)
Mount Vernon Nazarene University (Bob Tocheff)
Muskingum University (Zebulon Highben)
Ohio Christian University (Dione Bennet)
Otterbein University (Gayle Walker)
Sinclair Community College (Nolan Long)
University of Akron (Marie Bucoy- Calavan)
University of Dayton (Robert Jones)
University of Mount Union (Grant Cook)
University of Toledo (Brad Pierson)
Wright State University (Hank Dahlman)
Xavier University (Rich Schnipke)
Youngstown State University (Hae-Jong Lee)

About the Composer

Considered "highly imaginative…with big ideas" (Baltimore Sun) and "stirring and uplifting" (Miami Herald), award-winning composer Jake Runestad (b. 1986) has received commissions and performances from leading ensembles and organizations such as Washington National Opera, the Netherlands Radio Choir, the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra, the Cincinnati Vocal Arts Ensemble, Seraphic Fire, the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra, the Virginia Arts Festival, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Craig Hella Johnson and Conspirare.

Dubbed a "choral rockstar" by American Public Media, Jake is one of the most frequently performed composers in the U.S.A. Jake Runestad holds a Master's degree in composition from the Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University where he studied with Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Kevin Puts. He has also studied extensively with acclaimed composer Libby Larsen. A native of Rockford, IL, Mr. Runestad currently lives in Minneapolis, MN and his music is published by Boosey & Hawkes and JR Music.

Find out more at: JakeRunestad.com

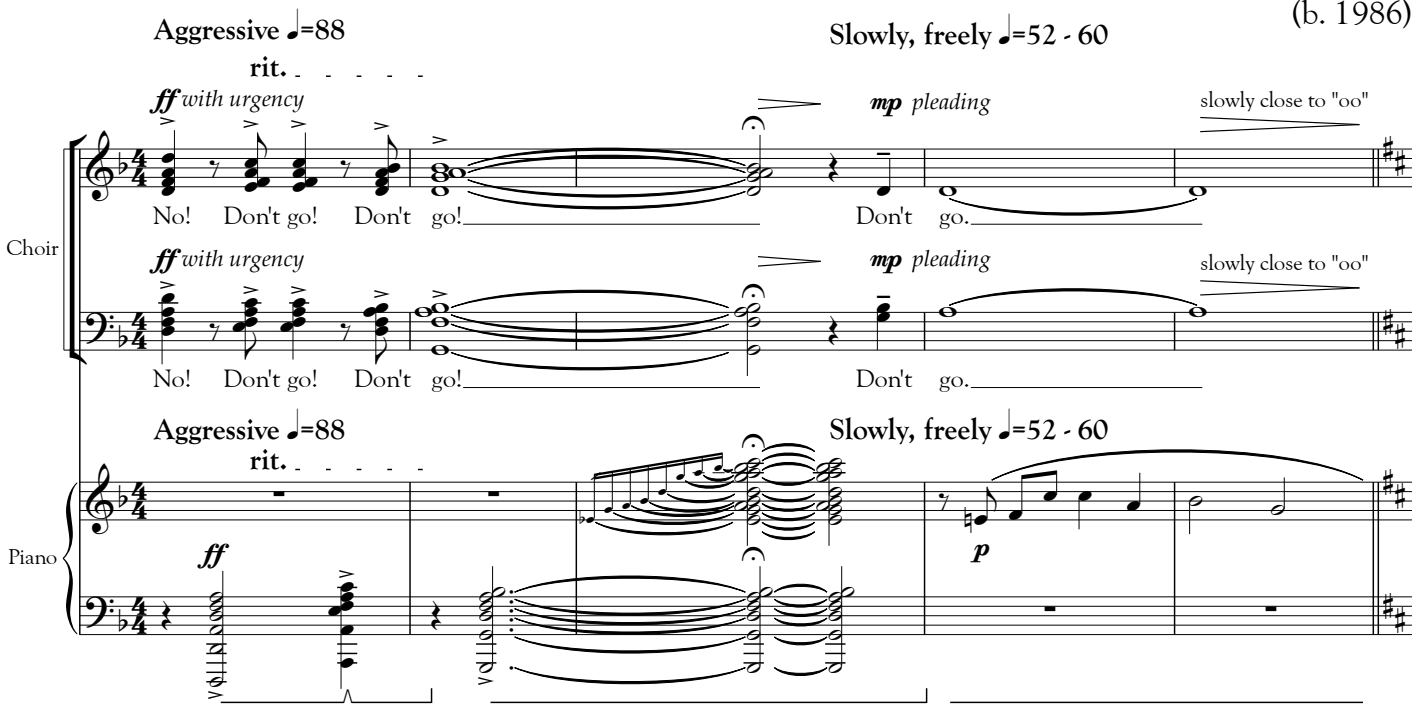
Commissioned by the Ohio Choral Directors Association College & University Commissioning Consortium

for N, C, and so many others

PLEASE STAY

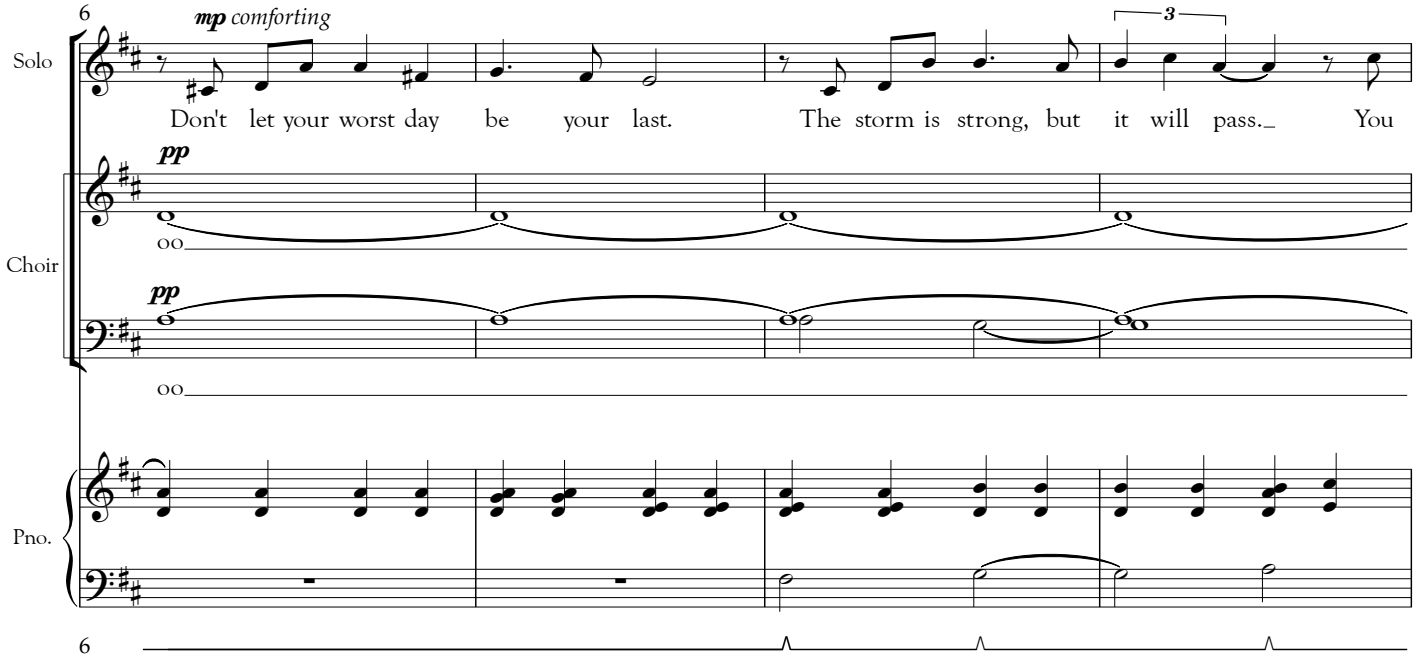
for SATB choir & piano

Jake Runestad
(b. 1986)



Soloist should stand in front of the choir.

Soprano or Alto (or Soprano section):



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Please purchase scores from jakerunestad.com

A portion of the proceeds from this work will be donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. More info at afsp.org

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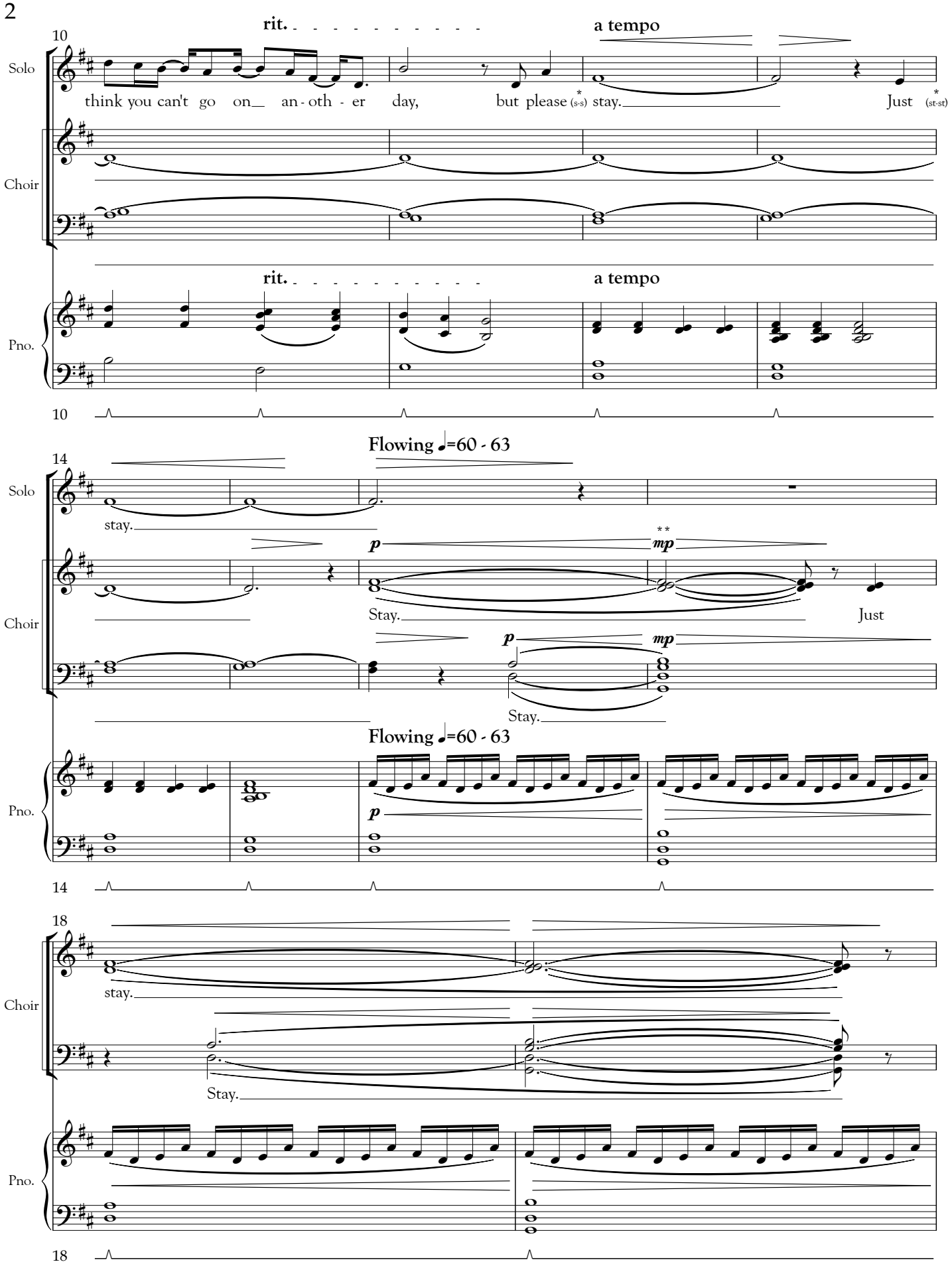
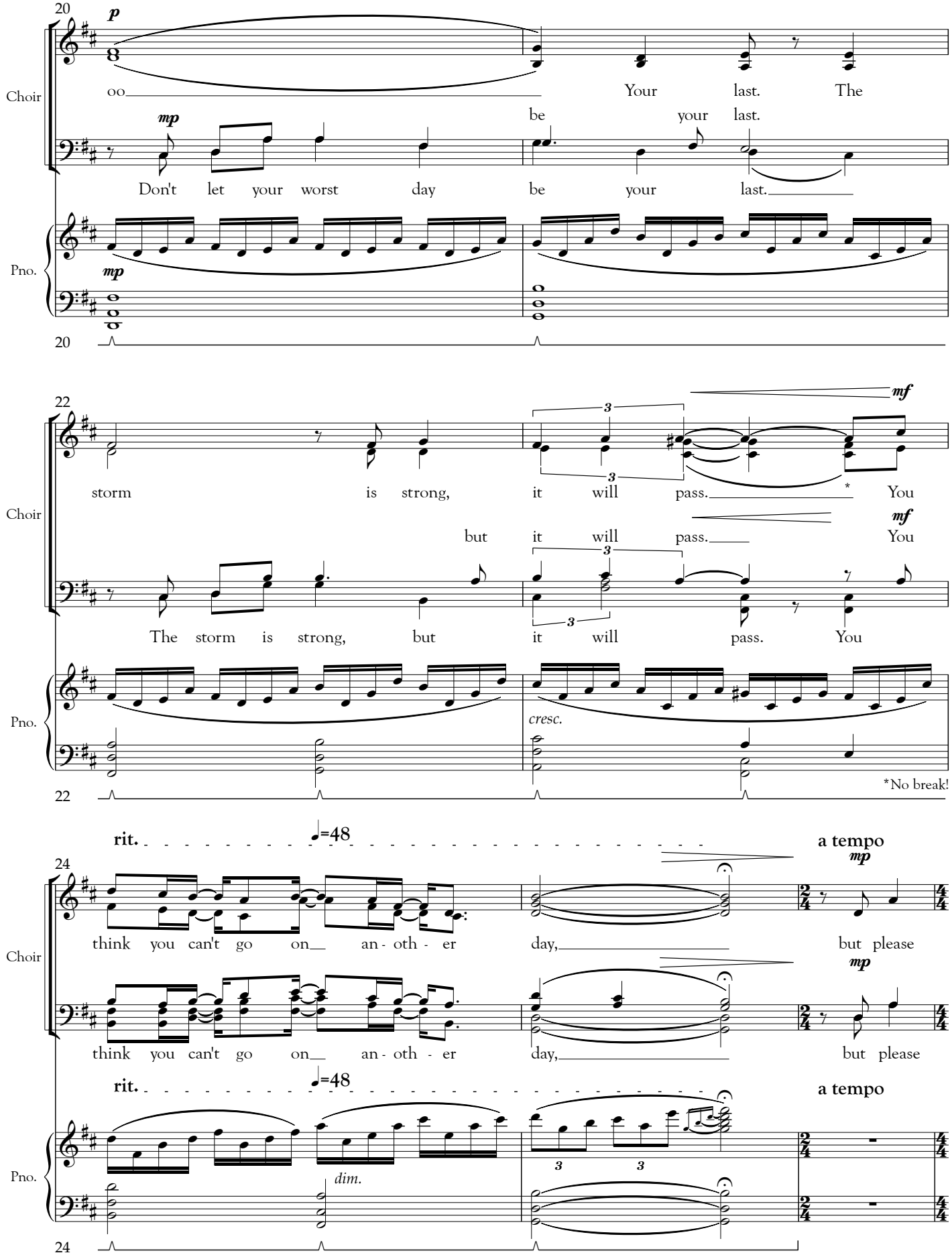
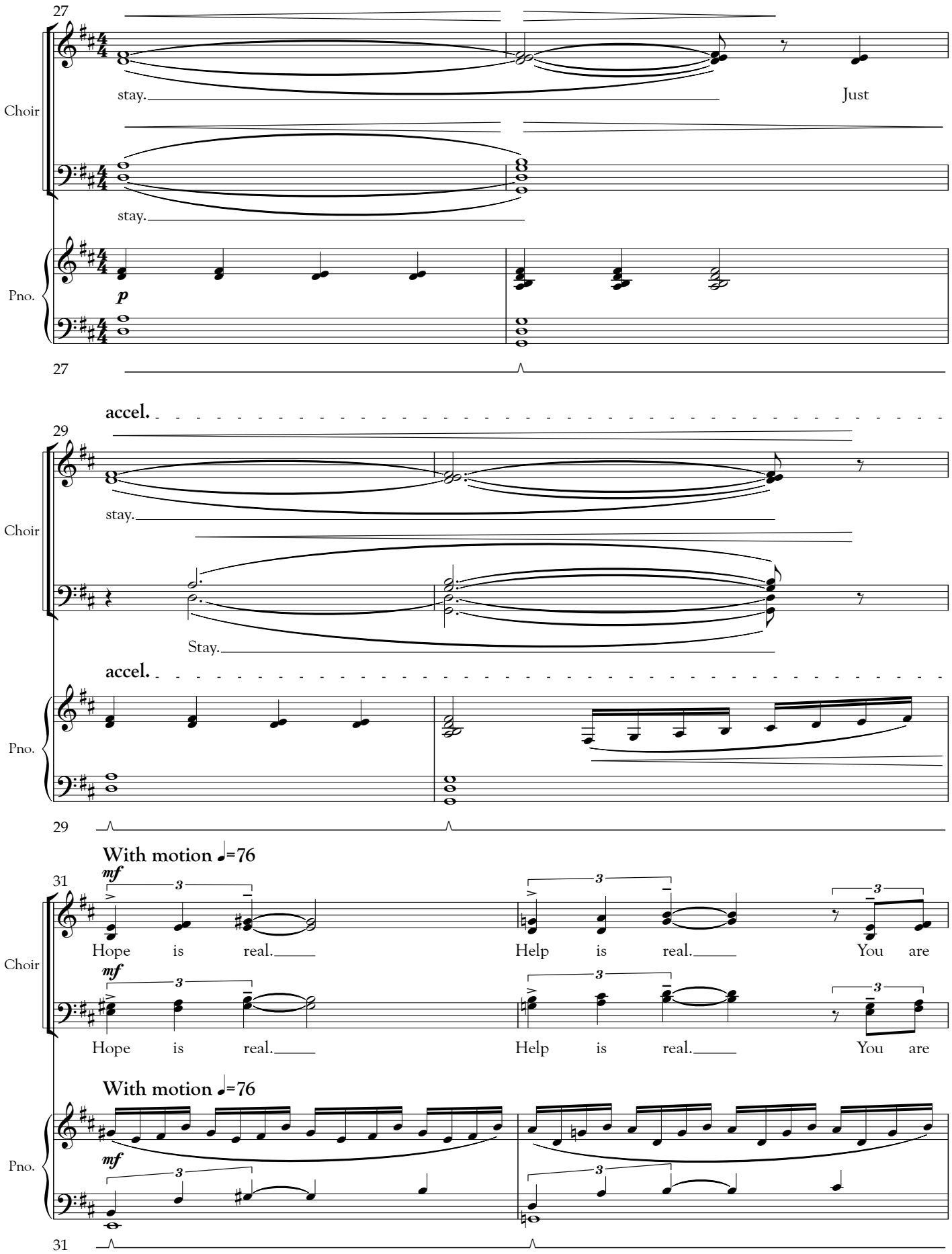
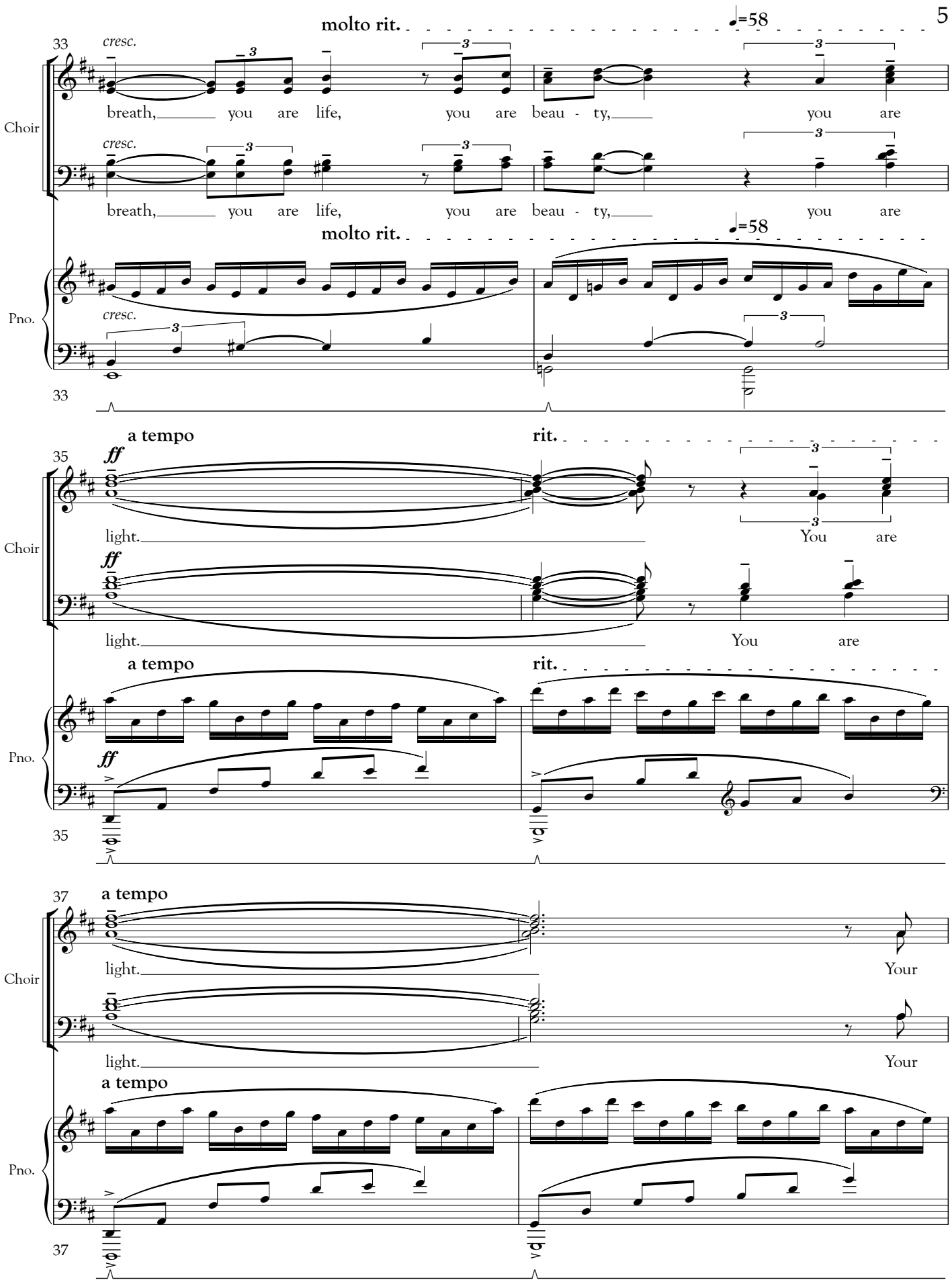
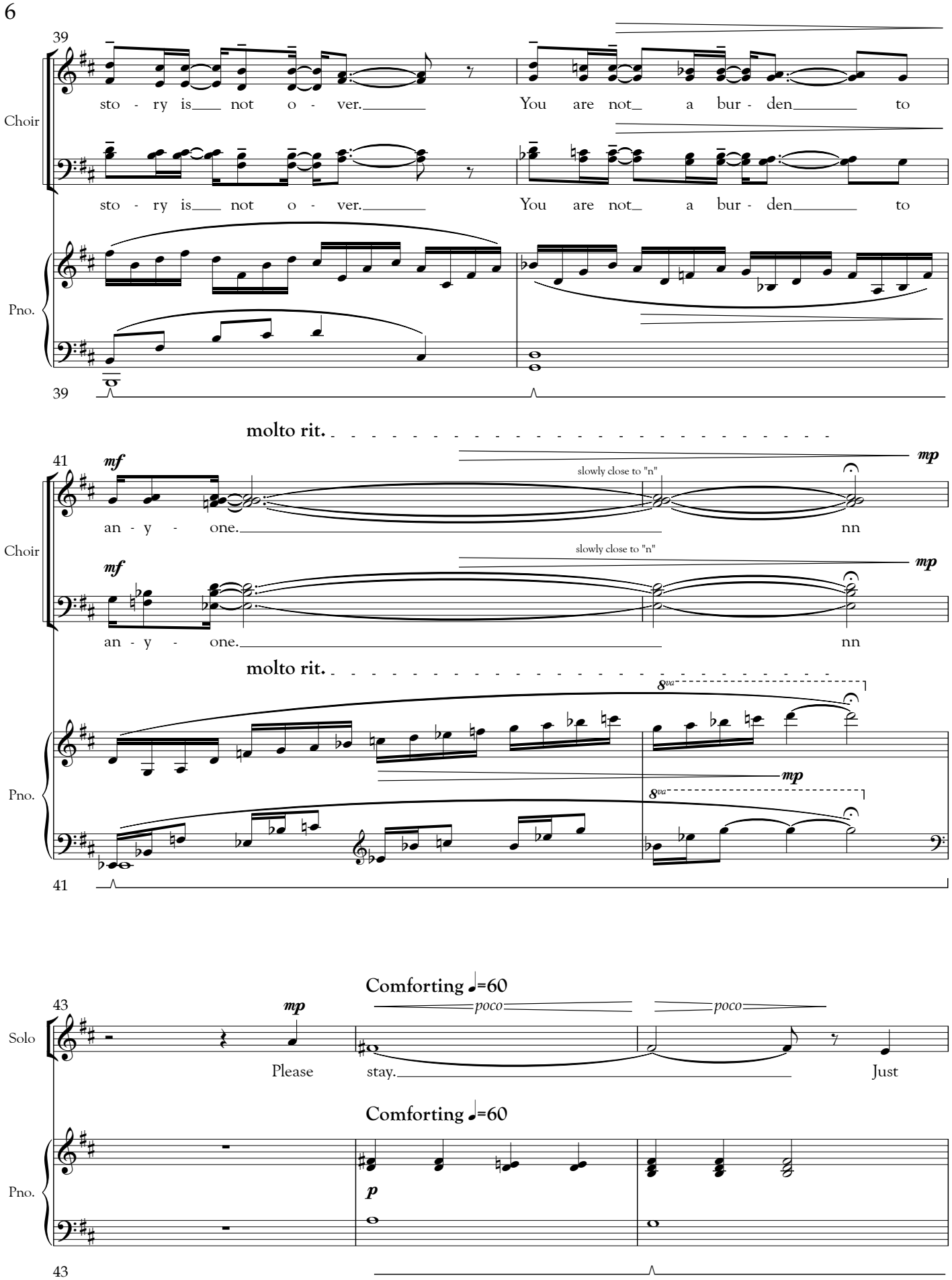
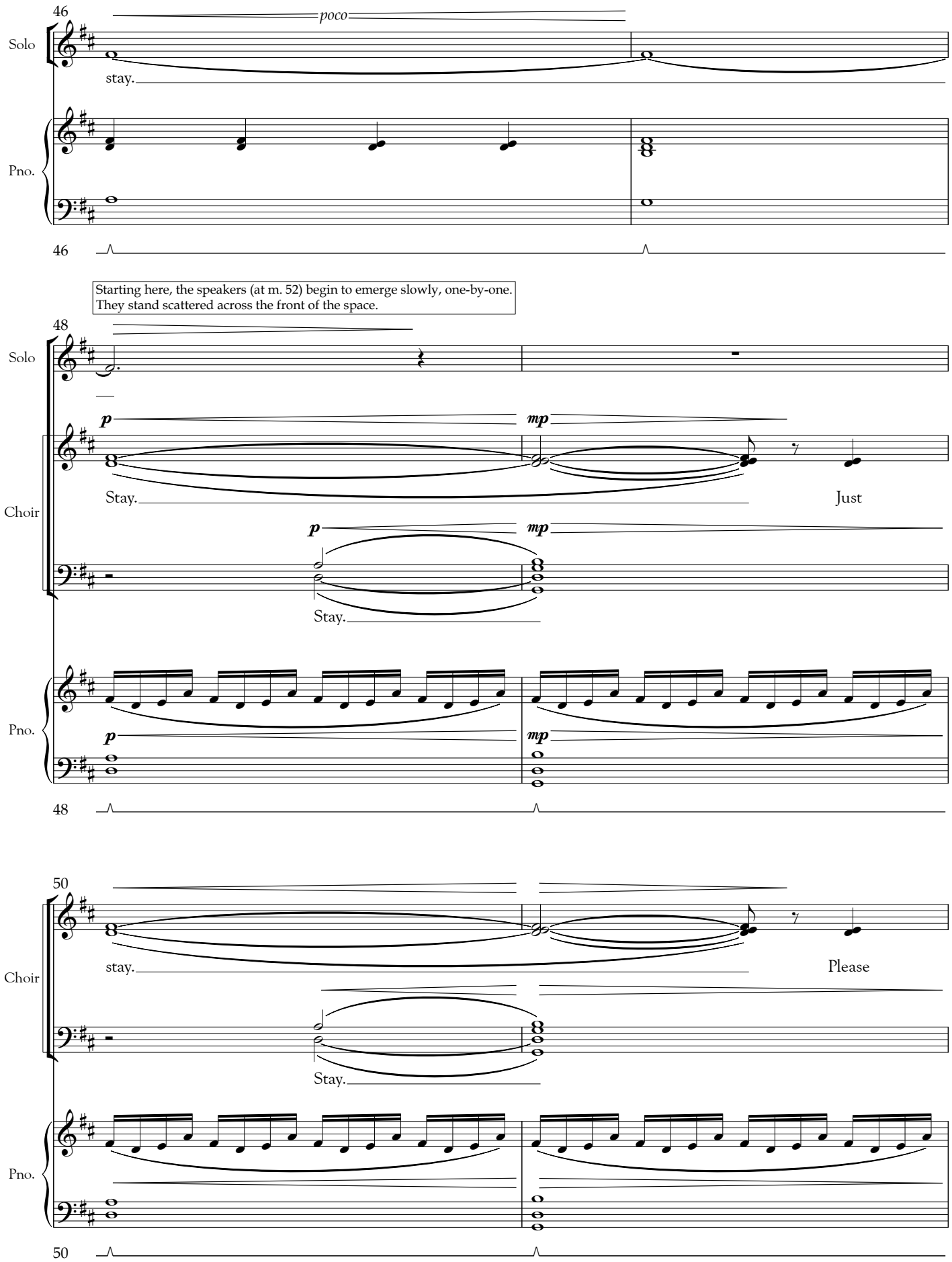
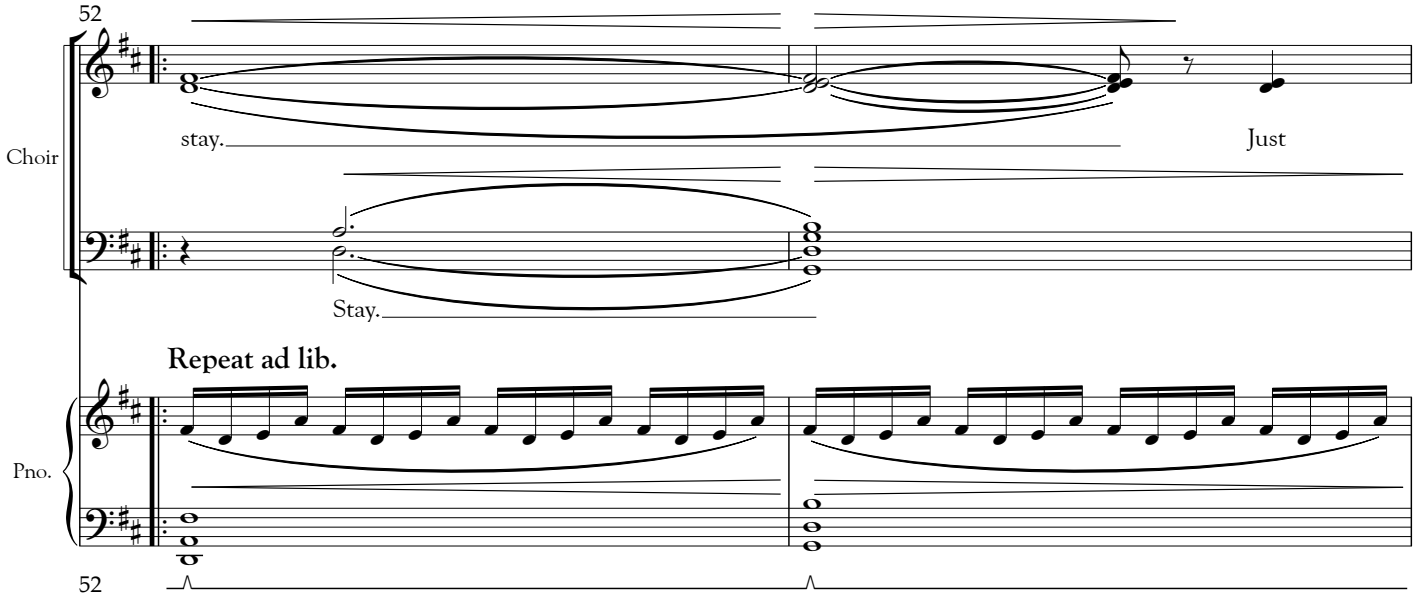

10
rit.
a tempo
Solo
think you can't go on an - oth - er day, but please (s-s) stay. Just (st-st)
Choir
Pno.
14
Flowing ♩=60 - 63
stay.
p
mp
Stay.
Just
18
*Throughout the work, the "s" and "st" sounds should not be elided. **Equal, three-way split.

20
p
Choir
oo
Your last. The
be your last.
mp
Don't let your worst day be your last.
Pno.
mp
20
22
mf
storm is strong, it will pass.
*
You
but it will pass.
mf
You
The storm is strong, but it will pass. You
Pno.
cresc.
22
*No break!
rit.
=48
a tempo
24
mp
think you can't go on an - oth - er day,
but please
Choir
mp
think you can't go on an - oth - er day,
but please
rit.
=48
a tempo
Pno.
dim.
24

27
Choir
stay.
Just
stay.
Pno.
p
27
accel.
29
Choir
stay.
Stay.
accel.
Pno.
29
With motion ♩=76
31
mf
Choir
Hope is real.
Help is real.
You are
mf
Hope is real.
Help is real.
You are
With motion ♩=76
Pno.
mf
31

molto rit.
♩=58
33
cresc.
breath, you are life, you are beau - ty, you are
Choir
Pno.
a tempo
rit.
35
ff
light.
You are
37
Your

39
Choir
sto - ry is not o - ver. You are not a bur - den to
sto - ry is not o - ver. You are not a bur - den to
Pno.
39
molto rit.
41
mf
mp
slowly close to "n"
an - y - one. nn
mf
mp
slowly close to "n"
an - y - one. nn
molto rit.
8va
mp
8va
Choir
Pno.
41
Comforting ♩=60
43
mp
poco
poco
Please stay. Just
Solo
Comforting ♩=60
p
Pno.
43


46
poco
Solo
stay.
Pno.
46
Starting here, the speakers (at m. 52) begin to emerge slowly, one-by-one.
They stand scattered across the front of the space.
48
Solo
p
mp
Stay.
Just
Choir
p
mp
Stay.
Pno.
p
mp
48
50
Choir
stay.
Please
Stay.
Pno.
50

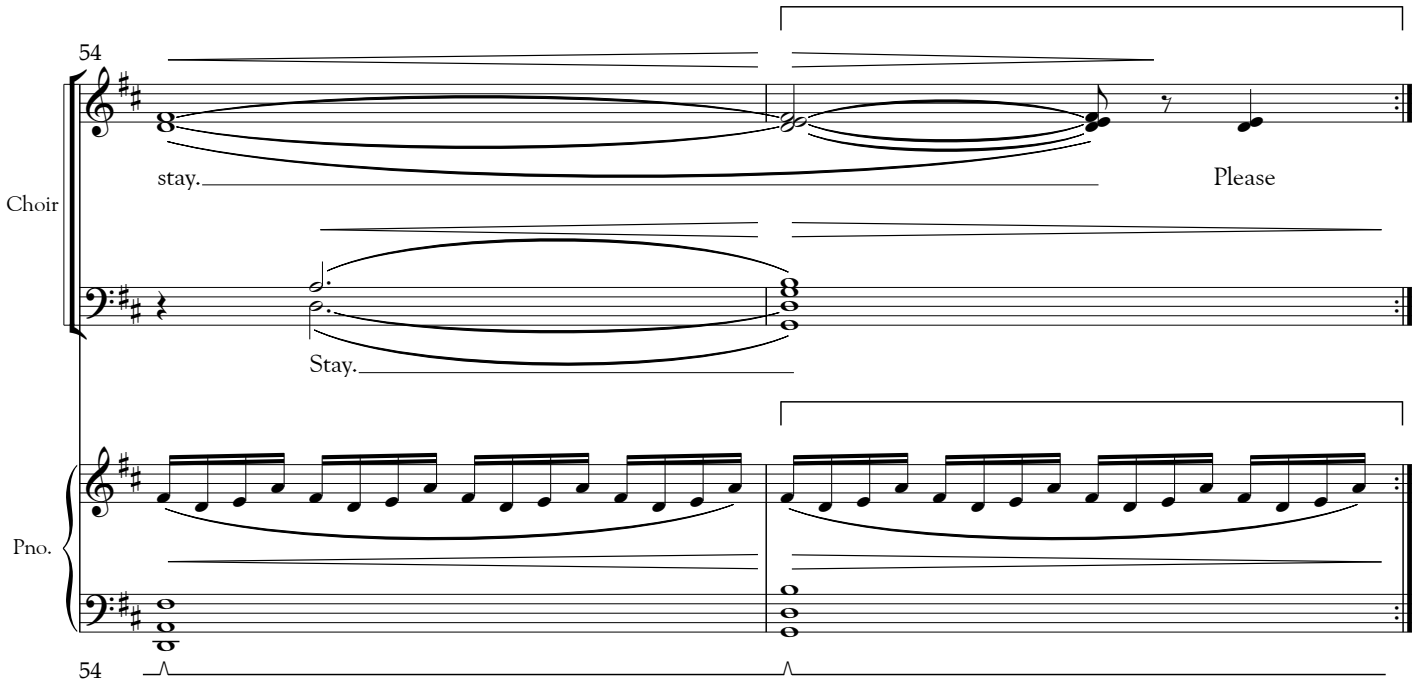
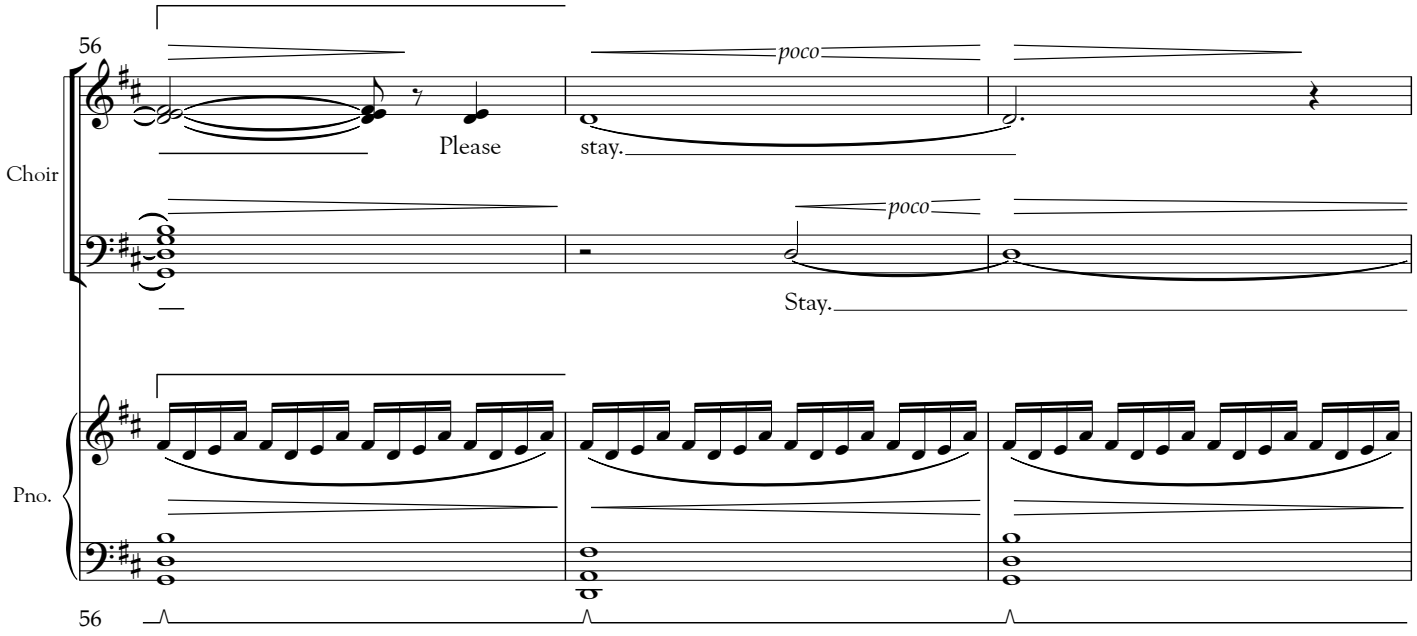
During this repeat, individuals from the ensemble will speak the lines in the box below. The lines should be spoken with sensitivity, not overly "performed" but rather with simple sincerity, yet clearly and deliberately articulated. There should be a brief pause between each spoken line; do not rush from one to the next. Repeat this section as often as necessary until all of the lines have been spoken. After each speaker finishes the line, she/he should move closer to another speaker and grab his/her hand showing solidarity. Variations can include other members of the choir stepping forward and comforting the speakers and/or the rest of the choir encircling the speakers after they have spoken their lines.

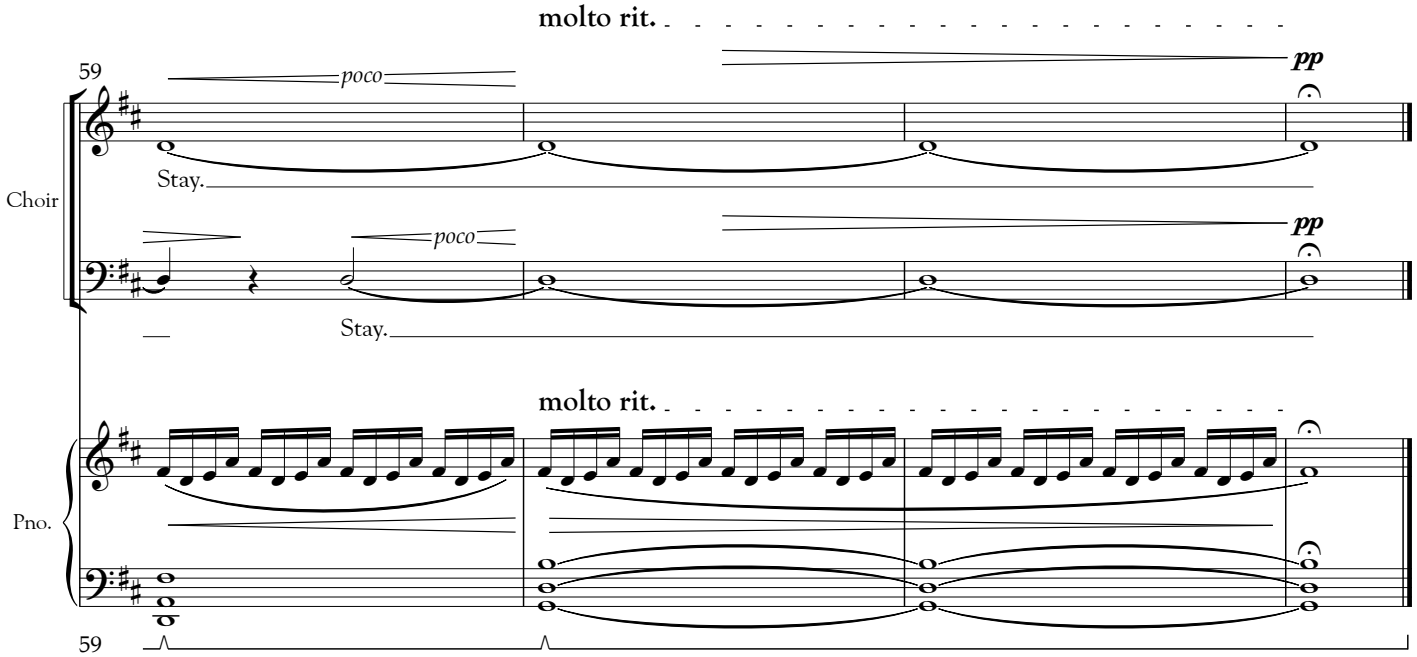
Repeat ad lib.



Spoken lines:

- My happiness is no longer in the hands of someone else.
- I realized that what people say about me reflects who they are, not who I am.
- It's okay to be a work-in-progress.
- Sharing your feelings doesn't make you weak.
- Some days are still such a struggle.
- All I can think about is Nathan. I wish he kept living. (Another name may be subsituted.)
- I decided to ask for help instead of going through it alone.
- It was hard as hell, but I kept living.
- One person took the time to listen and understand. Sometimes that's all it takes.

These statements were adapted from actual tweets using the hashtag #IKeptLiving -- expressions of hope from those who battle depression and chose to live.





September 12, 2016
Minneapolis, MN